

ECOLOGICAL REPORT
ITA – PEM
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ECOLOGICAL REPORT

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BIOLOGICAL STATION CASA ITA

ECOLOGICAL REPORT OF B.S. CASA ITA

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INTRODUCTION

Biological Station Casa ITA is located on the left bank of the Madre de Dios River approximately 40 min outboard ride from the city of Puerto Maldonado, it is passed the Rolin Island and near the port of the Station is a small stream named Carachamayoc.

METHODS

All species named in this document are acknowledged by direct (seen and / or heard) and indirect (tracks, feces, etc.) sightings. Most sightings were occasional however in some cases hikes were done with visitors to search for animals. The areas where the species were recorded were: the staff track gauge, Track gauge A, Track gauge D, Anaconda Walk, Canopy Walk and close to Casa ITA and during the boat rides to the various field stations.

RESULTS:

Reptiles:

This month, there was a sighting of a *Xenopholis scalaris* (Photo N°1). This snake was found near the station between remnants of logs on the ground, it measured approximately 30 cm. This snake is characterized by its reddish brown back and orange sides. They also inhabit forests with plain soil and flooded forests (Duellman, 2005). Apparently these snakes feed of small amphibians, because in past studies 2 *Eleutherodactylus* were found in its stomach, also he was found eating a *Hamptophryne* (Duellman 1978a).

During a visit to the Canopy, while climbing the tower there were reptile sightings such as *Anolis punctatus* (Photo N°2). Both females and males are the same size and their backs have a soft green colour and may have small white dots. These individuals are able to change color, sometimes to a reddish green. These diurnal arboreal species prefer shaded areas. To get their food they prefer to stay in one place and wait for something to approach it, if nothing comes they just move to another nearby area and wait for something again.

From the N°1 tower, in the *Spondias mombim* tree two *Uracentron azureum* (Photo N°3) were also sighted. These are characterized and easily distinguished from other species of lizards by their robust body, short tail and lumpy like spines.

During the nocturnal walks the *Plica plica* (Photo N°4) was one more sighted. These are characterized by being moderately large, with big head, vertebral ridges and unlike other lizards have a tuft of spines on scales on the sides the neck. This large tree species is usually associated with large trees on firm land. According to past records, they feed mostly on ants and bees.

Mammals:

Marmosops noctivagus (Photo N°5), locally known as "Raposa", is one of the species recorded during the night on the trail that leads to the station canopy. This mammal is nocturnal, terrestrial, arboreal and solitary. It feeds on insects and fruit. These mice use the lower parts of the vegetation and the forest floor where they run faster when active, especially on fallen trees, vines and branches. They build their nests of dead leaves.

Twice 2 groups of *Saimiri sciurus* (Photo N°6), more known as squirrel monkeys, were also observed both times seemed to be a group of about 80 to a little more individuals. Both groups were sighted on the trail connecting the Canopy. For the second time capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella* and *Cebus albifrons*) were also observed in the group of numerous squirrel monkeys, the latter advantage that make foraging squirrel monkeys for food.

Pichico monkeys (*Saguinus fuscicollis*) were also sighted in the middle of the same gauge and also in the Amazon Garden. They always move in small groups from 4-8 individuals (as seen in ITA).

Birds:

During this month banding several individuals of *Catharus ustulatus* (Photo N°7 and N°8) were captured, this species is a passerine bird in the Turdidae family. It breeds in northern and western North America and winters in Central America and South America to Argentina. This is a common migrant boreal species and you can see it in Peru from September to April.

The species that are named below were observed and recorded during the day while performing different work. For example, work in the Palmetum, journey through the different trails and around the station.

Tinamiformes:

Tinamus major, *Crypturellus undulatus*, *Crypturellus soui*

Galliformes:

Penelope jacquacu, *Ortalis guttata*

Cathartiformes:

Cathartes aura, Cathartes melambrotus, Coragyps atratus

Columbiformes:

Patagioenas cayennensis, Patagioenas plumbea, Leptotila rufaxila, Geotrygon montana.

Accipitriformes:

Rupornis magnirostris, Spizaetus ornatus.

Apodiformes:

Phaethornis hispidus, Phaethornis superciliosus, Glaucis hirsutus (Foto N°9).

Gruiformes:

Aramides cajaneus

Trogoniformes:

Trogon melanurus, Trogon collaris, Trogon curucui

Coraciformes:

Momotus momota, Baryptengus martii.

Galbuliformes:

Galbula cyanescens, Monasa nigrifrons, Capito auratus.

Piciformes:

Ramphastus tucanus, Pteroglossus castanotis, Melanerpes cruentatus, Celeus elegans, Celeus flavus, Piculus leucolaemus, Campephilus rubricollis.

Falconiformes:

Herpethoteres cachinnans, Micrastur ruficollis, Daptrius ater, Falco ruficularis.

Psittaciformes:

Ara ararauna, Ara severus, Aratinga weddellii, Brotogeris cyanoptera, Pionus menstruus, Amazona ochrocephala, Amazona farinosa.

Passeriformes:

Conopophaga peruviana, Thamnophilus doliatus, Thamnomanes ardesiacus, Formicarius analis, Sittasomus griseicapillus, Dendrocincla merula, Myarchus ferox, Myarchus tuberculifer, Pitangus lictor, Pipra fasciata (Foto N° 10 y 11) Tityra cayana, Tachycineta albiventer, Riparia riparia, Troglodytes aedon, Campylorhynchus turdinus, Turdus hauxwelli, Paroaria gularis, Saltator maximus, Thraupis episcopus, Thraupis palmarum, Ramphocellus carbo, Tangara chilensis, Tangara schrankii, Tyrannus melancholicus, Psarocolius angustifrons, Psarocolius decumanus, Psarocolius bifasciatus, Cyanocorax

cyanomelas, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, *Cacicus cela*, *Cacicus haemorrhous*, *Icterus cayanensis*, *Molothrus oryzivorus*.

Also during a visit to the region of Palma Real a group of *Neochen jubata* (Photo N°12) was sighted and these were not adults due to their size. There were 3 of them.

Amphibians:

Due to the continued presence of rain in the recent weeks some amphibians could be sighted such as *Rhinella margaritifera* (Photo N°13), this is one of the most common amphibians and easy to find. Similarly, two individuals were found *Dendropsophus sp.* (Photo N°14).

Invertebrates:

An immature mantid was recorded. This corresponds to a *Choeradodis rhombicollis* (Photo N°15), we say immature because they have not completed the full growth of the wings. It was camouflaged among a set of heliconias.

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- Duellman, W. 2005. Cusco amazónico: The lives of amphibians and reptiles in an amazonian rainforest. Comstock Publishing Associates, The University of Kansas Lawrence, Kansas.

ANEX



Photo N°1.- *Xenopholis scalaris*



Photo N°2.- *Anolis punctatus*



Photo N°3.- *Uracentron azureum*



Photo N°4.- *Plica plica*



Photo N°5.- *Marmosops noctivagus*



Photo N°6.- *Saimiri sciurus*



Photo N°7.- *Catharus ustulatus*



Photo N°8.- *Catharus ustulatus*



Photo N°9.- *Glaucis hirsutus*



Photo N°10.-*Pipra fascicauda*



Photo N°11.- *Pipra fascicauda*



Photo N°12.- *Neochen jubata*



Photo N°13.- *Rhinella margaritifera*



Photo N°14.- *Dendropsophus* sp.



Photo N°15.- *Choeradodis rhombicollis*